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STATE FOR AF, AF/W, DRL, INR/AA

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENT YAR'ADUA TO UNDERGO MEDICAL CHECK-UP IN
SAUDI ARABIA

Classified By: Political Counselor James P. McNulty for
reasons in Sections 1.5 (B) and (D)

[1](#)1. (U) Nigerian President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua will travel to Saudi Arabia August 14 to undergo a scheduled medical examination, according to his spokesperson Olusegun Adeniyi. Yar'Adua will remain in Saudi Arabia for one week, during which he will perform the Lesser Hajj.

[1](#)2. (C) Separately, Information Minister Professor Dora Akunyili confirmed to Ambassador the accuracy of this report. She noted that the President's Office wanted to avoid the criticisms that arose previously when Yar'Adua traveled abroad for medical reasons without announcing such trips beforehand. Secrecy over such trips, including a similar one to Saudi Arabia last August, had fueled speculation among Nigerians about the President's health and extent of control over his government.

SANDERS